

HOOR OF MEETING ON THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2000

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Wednesday, September 13, 2000, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO
DECLARE A RECESS ON THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2000, FOR
THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN
JOINT MEETING ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE, PRIME MINISTER OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Thursday, September 14, 2000, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee, prime minister of the Republic of India.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

□ 1715

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

HONORING BELLAIRE LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bellaire Texas Little League All-Stars for winning the United States Championship and advancing to the title game of the 54th Little League World Series. Along the way, the team inspired not only our community of the 25th District of Texas, but the entire Nation.

More than 7,000 teams from 104 countries vied to attain that coveted position, but it was the determination and

the heart of the boys from Bellaire that put the team above the rest.

Throughout their summer of success, the team displayed the qualities of good sportsmanship and perseverance that made their parents, the city, and my constituents in the 25th District of Texas extremely proud. Their journey touched us all.

When the group of 12-year-olds came together in late June as the best players in the Little League, something magical happened. They won district for the first time and the team took sectionals in Galveston. The Bellaire Little League then won the State tournament in Waco and captured the United States South Region championship in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Bellaire then went undefeated at the regionals and earned a spot in the Little League World Series. There were many breathtaking plays along the way, a game-winning homer for Alex Atherton against Lamar and a no-hitter from Ross Haggard to beat Barboursville, West Virginia. They played on national television a total of nine times as they advanced, and all of Houston found themselves glued to the TV set.

The ride lasted until the 3-2 loss to Venezuela in the championship game, a defeat that was hard fought and handled with the honor that hometown fans learned to expect from the youthful team.

Bellaire is well known for its baseball, but always on the high school level, not Little League. The Bellaire Cardinals have won seven State high school championships and a national title in 1999.

Before the young Bellaire team burst onto the scene this year, the Little League team, from among the smallest Little League organizations in the State, had never even won the district before. I commend the coaches who were instrumental in bringing the team together more than 2 years ago when many of the players were 9-year-olds: Coaches Mike Purcell, Cliff Atherton, Steve Malone, and Larry Johnson.

It was Manager Terry McConn who took the tournament team to the championship. Manager McConn has made lasting contributions to these kids by guiding and inspiring such winning performances in his players. All of the adults and parents who sacrificed their free time to helping, coaching, and cheering these kids along should be commended. McConn has had the added benefit and immense gain in managing his son who caught every game.

Not only did the boys from Bellaire capture a spot in the World Series, they also captured our hearts. The Bellaire team's slogans of "We Believe" and "This is our Year" became mottos that will reverberate long after this season ended. The mottos and the qualities of teamwork, cooperation, fairness, athleticism and focus that the boys learned will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

These boys, Alex Atherton, Sean Farrell, Zach Jamail, Mitchell Malone, Terrence McConn, Ben Silberman, Nick Wills, Drew Zizinia, Ross Haggard, Hunter Johnson, Michael Johnson and Justin Shufelt will take the summer of 2000 with them forever.

Borrowing a line from "Field of Dreams," Kevin Costner, who threw out the ceremonial first pitch to Terrence McConn and was honored at the 54th annual Little League Baseball World Series, said the memories of Little League are "so thick that I have to brush them away from my face."

Years from now, I predict these young gentlemen from Bellaire will feel the same way.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Bellaire Little League All-Stars and I thank them for reminding us what good sportsmanship and grace under pressure is all about. I join the other fans of the 25th District of Texas in saluting our young heroes.

DOES WAGE INFLATION CAUSE PRICE INFLATION?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak on does wage inflation cause price inflation? That is a question that few have asked, even at the Federal Reserve Systems' Board of Governors.

Though wage inflation is presently utilized to aid in determining whether the Fed raises the interest rates or lowers rates or leaves rates the way they are, most have never heard of wage inflation until I spoke to this issue in a previous speech. Most still think it means that the wages of workers in the broadest sense are trending upward. Most think it just means workers are getting paid a little more, proof then of our booming economy.

Let me quote one recent headline from the Wall Street Journal: "Unions Seek Big Pay Gains, Sparking Inflation Worries."

In 1994, Layard and Nickell in their book "The Unemployment Crisis" stated this:

When buoyant demand reduces unemployment (at least relative to recent experience levels) inflationary pressure develops. Firms start bidding against each other for labor, and workers feel more confident in pressing wage claims. If the inflationary pressure is too great, inflation starts spiralling upwards: higher wages lead to higher price rises, leading to still higher wage rises, and so on. This is the wage price spiral.

This rather superficial explanation has been taken literally by many that should know better. But that would pose no problem should the idea itself remain in the cloistered walls of academia. But it did not.

When the Federal Reserve Board decided, along with Members of Congress and the White House, that price stability shall be of primary concern determining Fed policy, along with its